

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A wound closure dressing of controlled stretchability that is both liquid and pathogen impermeable; said dressing comprising an adhesive layer of flexible and stretchable pressure-sensitive adhesive material; said adhesive material being liquid-absorbent and comprising a continuous phase of an elastomeric adhesive and a discontinuous phase of hydrocolloid particles dispersed throughout said continuous phase; a stretchable and contractible backing layer secured to one side of said adhesive layer; and a multiplicity of flexible but substantially non-stretchable reinforcing members secured to and extending in spaced parallel relation across said dressing for preventing stretching of said dressing in directions parallel with said members while allowing stretching and contraction of said dressing in all other directions.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said reinforcing members comprise spaced parallel flexible but substantially non-stretchable filaments.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 2 in which said filaments are arranged in spaced parallel groups.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said filaments extend in parallel relation along substantially the same plane.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend along a side of said adhesive layer opposite from said one side.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 3 in which said filaments extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said reinforcing members comprise spaced parallel strips of flexible but substantially non-stretchable material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend in parallel relation along substantially the same plane.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend along a side of said adhesive layer opposite from said one side.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The wound disclosure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 7 in which said strips extend between said backing layer and said adhesive layer.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The wound closure dressing of claim 1 in which said backing layer and said adhesive layer have a transparency allowing visual inspection through said dressing of a wound site covered by said dressing.

Claim 13 (cancelled).